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NOTE ON THE MEXICAN SPERMOPHILUS. — Fresh specimens of this animal (*S. Mexicanus*), still rare in collections, have reached me through Mr. George B. Sennett, of Erie, Pennsylvania, who has lately returned with a fine collection of mammals and birds from the vicinity of Fort Brown, Texas, — a highly interesting locality, which, through the exertions of Dr. J. C. Newell, of the army, and of Mr. Sennett, has furnished various species new to our fauna. In 1857 Professor Baird had some dozen or more specimens to work upon, but no additional ones have hitherto been forthcoming, as Mr. Allen's monograph just published catalogues none. Mr. Sennett's specimens are in fine order, and correspond precisely with Baird's and with Allen's elaborate descriptions. — ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C.

PAPILIO CRESPHONTES IN NEW ENGLAND. — On the 6th of last September, Mr. N. Coleman captured in the vicinity of Berlin, Connecticut, the only specimen of this Southern insect ever recorded from New England. As the larva is not known to feed on any other plant than the orange, the butterfly probably hatched from a larva accidentally transported with trees from Florida, or emerged from a chrysalis sent North as a curiosity.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

EXAMINATIONS OF INDIAN MOUNDS ON ROCK RIVER, AT STERLING, ILLINOIS. — I recently made an examination of a few of the many Indian mounds found on Rock River, about two miles above Sterling, Illinois. The first one opened was an oval mound about twenty feet long, twelve feet wide, and seven feet high. In the interior of this I found a *dolmen* or quadrilateral wall about ten feet long, four feet high, and four and a half feet wide. It had been built of lime-rock from a quarry near by, and was covered with large, flat stones. No mortar or cement had been used. The whole structure rested on the surface of the natural soil, the interior of which had been scooped out to enlarge the chamber. Inside of the *dolmen* I found the partly decayed remains of eight human skeletons, two very large teeth of an unknown animal, two fossils, one of which is not found in this place, and a plummet. One of the long bones had been splintered; the fragments had united, but there remained large morbid growths of bone (exostosis) in several places. One of the skulls presented a circular opening about the size of a silver dime. This perforation had been made during life, for the edges had commenced to cicatrize.

I later examined three circular mounds, but in them I found no *dolmens*. The first mound contained three adult human skeletons, a few fragments of the skeleton of a child, the lower maxillary of which indicated it to be about six years old. I also found claws of some carnivorous animal. The surface of the soil had been scooped out, and the bodies

laid in the excavation and covered with about one foot of earth; fires had then been made upon the grave, and the mound afterwards completed. The bones had not been charred. No charcoal was found among the bones, but occurred in abundance in a stratum about one foot above them. Two other mounds examined at the same time contained no remains.

Of two other mounds opened later, the first was circular, about four feet high, and fifteen feet in diameter at the base, and was situated on an elevated point of land close to the bank of the river. From the top of this mound one might view the country for many miles in almost any direction. On its summit was an oval altar, six feet long and four and one half wide. It was composed of flat pieces of limestone, which had been burned red, some portions having been almost converted into lime. On and about this altar I found abundance of charcoal. At the sides of the altar were fragments of human bones, some of which had been charred. It was covered by a natural growth of vegetable mold and sod, the thickness of which was about ten inches. Large trees had once grown in this vegetable mold, but their stumps were so decayed I could not tell with certainty to what species they belonged. Another large mound was opened which contained nothing. — W. C. HOLBROOK.

CHRISTENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINOLE INDIANS. — The Seminole Indians, now inhabiting the Indian Territory, were formerly in the habit of performing the following ceremony at the christening of their male children: At about the age of fourteen the boy was scratched or incised, with a sharp flint, six times on each arm and leg, the length of the incisions being about a foot. If the subject flinched or cried out, he was given an insignificant name, and was not considered worthy to be a warrior; but if he bore the operation manfully he was given a high-sounding title, and was destined to become a great man in the tribe. — E. A. BARBER.

MAN IN THE PLIOCENE IN AMERICA. — The evidence, as it stands to-day, although not conclusive, seems to place the first appearance of man in this country in the Pliocene, and the best proof of this has been found on the Pacific coast. During several visits to that region, many facts were brought to my knowledge which render this more than probable. Man at this time was a savage, and was doubtless forced by the great volcanic outbreaks to continue his migration. This was at first to the south, since mountain chains were barriers on the east. As the native horses of America were now all extinct, and as the early man did not bring the Old World animal with him, his migrations were slow. I believe, moreover, that his slow progress towards civilization was in no small degree due to this same cause, the absence of the horse.

It is far from my intention to add to the many theories extant in regard to the early civilizations in this country, and their connection with the primitive inhabitants, or the later Indians; but two or three facts have

recently come to my knowledge which I think worth mentioning in this connection. On the Columbia River, I have found evidence of the former existence of inhabitants much superior to the Indians at present there, and of which no tradition remains. Among many stone carvings which I saw there, were a number of heads which so strongly resemble those of apes that the likeness at once suggests itself. Whence came these sculptures, and by whom were they made? Another fact that has interested me very much is the strong resemblance between the skulls of the typical mound-builders of the Mississippi Valley and those of the Pueblo Indians. I had long been familiar with the former, and when I recently saw the latter, it required the positive assurance of a friend who had himself collected them in New Mexico to convince me that they were not from the mounds. A third fact, and I leave man to the archæologists, on whose province I am even now trenching. In a large collection of mound-builders' pottery, — over a thousand specimens, — which I have recently examined with some care, I found many pieces of elaborate workmanship so nearly like the ancient water-jars from Peru that no one could fairly doubt that some intercourse had taken place between the widely separated people that made them.

The oldest known remains of man on this continent differ in no important characters from the bones of the typical Indian, although in some minor details they indicate a much more primitive race. These early remains, some of which are true fossils, resemble much more closely the corresponding parts of the highest Old World apes than do the latter our Tertiary primates, or even the recent American monkeys. Various living and fossil forms of Old World primates fill up essentially the latter gap. The lesser gap between the primitive man of America and the anthropoid apes is partially closed by still lower forms of men, and doubtless also by higher apes, now extinct. Analogy, and many facts as well, indicates that this gap was smaller in the past. It certainly is becoming wider now with every generation, for the lowest races of men will soon become extinct, like the Tasmanians, and the highest apes cannot long survive. Hence the intermediate forms of the past, if any there were, become of still greater importance. For such missing links, we must look to the caves and later Tertiary of Africa, which I regard as now the most promising field for exploration in the Old World. — Professor Marsh's Address at Nashville as Vice President of the American Association.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS. — The Rev. S. D. Peet, of Ashtabula, Ohio, has assumed the editorship of the *American Antiquarian*, a quarterly journal of correspondence on American archæology, ethnology, and anthropology; price \$2.00 per annum. We have announced by the same gentleman A Manual of Archæology; being a Complete Analysis and Compendium of the Science, designed especially for Beginners.

The *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* announces for the August number the following papers of general interest: Primitive Agriculture, A. W. Buckland; Non-Sepulchral Rude Stone Monuments, M. T. Walhouse; The Himalayan Origin of the Magyars, Hyde Clarke; The Brain Weight of some Chinese and Pelew Islanders, Dr. Crochley Clapham; Right-Handedness, James Shaw; The Mental Progress of Animals during the Human Period, James Shaw.

During the meeting of the British Association in Plymouth, excursions were made to Totnes, Torquay, and Brixham caves. The opening address before the geological section, by Mr. Pengelly, was an elaborate report of the exploration of caves in the vicinity of Plymouth, including the Orestin caverns, Kent's Hole, Yealm Bridge caverns, the Ash Hole, Brixham Cavern, Windmill Hell, and Ansty's Cave. The following papers were among those read before the anthropological department: Francis Galton, On a More Accurate and Extensive Method of Observations on those Groups of Men who are sufficiently Similar in their Mental Characters or in their Physiognomy, or in Both, to admit of Classification; Dr. Beddoe, On the Bulgarians; Dr. Phéné, On the District of Mycenæ, and its Early Inhabitants; Park Harrison, On Characters found in the Sides of the Tunnels driven into the Chalk of Sussex; Mr. Sorby, On the Coloring Matter of the Human Hair; Miss A. W. Buckland, Ethnological Hints afforded by the Stimulants of Ancient and Modern Savages; Mr. A. Simpson, Who are the Zaparoz, a Tribe of Ecuador; Mr. Hunter, On the Natives of Socotra; B. Harts-horne, Ancient People and Irrigation Works in India; Professor Rolleston, On the Rationale of Brachycephaly and Dolicocephaly; Artificial Deformation of the Head; The Fauna and Flora of Prehistoric Times. There were about thirty papers read before this department.

The American Association had such a poor showing of anthropologists on the first day that the subsection was merged into the section of biology. The members came in a little later, and Monday, August 31st, was assigned to them. The opening address of the president, Dr. Daniel Wilson, of Toronto, was partly a *résumé* of anthropological science, and partly an invitation to cultivate the speaker's peculiar field, namely, the ethnological problems that are being worked out on the American continent by the mingling of many races under various climatic and social conditions. Among the papers read are the following: The American Indians of North America, Henry C. Carrington; All Life conditionally Immortal, William Bross; Additional Facts concerning Artificial Perforations of the Cranium in Ancient Mounds in Michigau, Henry Gilman; Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages, J. W. Powell; Report on the Exploration of the Graves of the Mound Builders in Scott and Mississippi Counties, Missouri; Some Observations on the Skull of the Comanches, T. O. Summers. Colonel Garrick Mallery read a very elaborate paper on the probability that

there has been no diminution in the number of the Indians of the North American continent since the first settlement. The author took the ground that the works which are supposed to have taken great numbers to accomplish them were rather the results of long-continued labor. This statement in opposition to the almost unanimous opinion of writers on our Indians was the subject of considerable attention. Professor Marsh in his address before the section of biology took occasion to say that while the primates originated on the American continent, the absence of higher fossil forms argues their subsequent migration, and consequently the impossibility of man's having originated in our hemisphere.

The Davenport (Iowa) Academy of Natural Science has issued volume ii. part i. of its Proceedings. Among the valuable contributions to archæology, the one which will attract the most attention is the description, by the Rev. J. Gass, of his discovering in a mound tablets of soft shale, having elaborate inscriptions scratched on them. One represents a hunting party, another a cremation scene, and a third is a supposed calendar.

In addition to the antiquities already mentioned from Porto Ricó and described in the Smithsonian Report for 1876, Professor Baird has just received from Mr. Lewis Jones R. Brace, of Nassau, N. P., drawings of celts, images, and stools, differing from those already described only in detail. Among the specimens are two wooden stools, one of which is the long-tailed variety sent by Messrs. Gabb and Frith. The other is a short-tailed variety, and resembles very much a shallow dish. I have seen similarly shaped, so-called mortars or metates from Central America, made to resemble a quadruped, the head projecting in front and the tail twisted around for a handle.

The Smithsonian Annual Report for 1876, just published, is in some respects the most interesting number ever issued.

Dr. Paul Broca, the distinguished anthropologist, presided over the French Association this year. In his opening address he gave a *résumé* of the fossil races of Western Europe, dividing them as follows:—

1. Caustadt Race, the oldest (dolicocephalic).
2. Cromagnon Race (").
3. Furfooz Race (brachycephalic).

Authors of anthropological treatises and papers, desiring to have them noticed in Baird's Annual Record, will please send copies to Professor S. F. Baird or to O. T. Mason, Washington, D. C. — O. T. MASON.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

DISCOVERY OF JOINTED LIMBS IN TRILOBITES.—In a paper entitled Notes on Some Sections of Trilobites from the Trenton Limestone, published in advance of the report of the New York State Museum of Natural History, Mr. C. D. Walcott describes and figures jointed limbs in